

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A family of complex of medical diagnostic systems, particularly an X-ray examination apparatus has a shared family architecture based upon a skeleton of generic building blocks of software, that are present in most or all of the systems in a particular family. A component framework includes an architecture skeleton that supports participating plug-in software components for an inventory function. Individual plug-in components provides one or more services. The inventory function maintains a parts list of the available services. The component framework defines roles providing one or more common interfaces for services of several plug-in components. Notably, the component framework includes an inventory function for assessing available services in the participating plug-in components.